

## **Stakeholder say regarding US – Canada Albacore Tuna Treaty**

To: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), NOAA, WFOA, AAFA, & to Whom It May Concern, including those from Canada:

From: F/V “Wet & Wild” US doc. #589969. 77’ sustainable Albacore Tuna Troller

Owner / operator: Rick Sullivan

### **The US – Canadian Albacore Treaty has been Abused**

I feel that the effort that the US fleet puts in the Canadian waters, compared to efforts made by the Canadian fleet into the US waters are not balanced.

There is no consistent production in Canada and there for of no value to me. I value my right to the fish inside our US EEZ and feel that the Canadians take advantage of it.

Our fishery has had hard times lately, so getting mowed down by a foreign Canadian boat, or FLEET, is hard to take. This fishery was once known as a gentlemen’s fishery, but now the aggressive tactics of the Canadians make it hard to stay on the fish or to make any profit. They are literally running me off the fish.

I feel that waters inside the US EEZ should benefit US taxpayers and US citizens. I pay taxes and use our US ports to keep our US economy going. I help gear stores, unloading docks, buy fuel, etc. The Canadian fleet take their US caught albacore back to Canada where that Canadian ports, fish docks, etc. benefit at my expense.

At the time the US- Canadian Treaty started , there was little effort made by the Canadian’s in the US EEZ while now they fish in groups numbering 20-30 high capacity trollers.

I feel that the elimination of the treaty would not only benefit the US fleet, it would also help keep the US infrastructure going. This is an important part of the US fleet.

While discontinuing the treaty is important , building back up the offshore albacore fishery is just as important. Stopping IUU fishing would help create many more opportunities for all that wish to participate in albacore fishing as a source of income.

Between IUU fishing and extreme Canadian pressure on US stocks US fisherman in this fishery have a slim chance a survival.

Thank you for you attention,

Rick Sullivan F/V WET & WILD

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